

58. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the mathematical operation corresponds to taking the highest incidence of occurrence in a histogram.

59. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the mathematical operation corresponds to assigning a value if and only if the value is the only value that appears at elements corresponding to the at least one test element of the morphological mask.

60. (New) The method of claim 52, further comprising recording the plotted result as a computer-readable file.

61. (New) The method of claim 52, further comprising displaying the plotted result.

REMARKS

Claims 1-51 were presented in this continuation application. Claims 1-51 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 52-61 have been added. Claims 52-61 remain in the present application for examination.

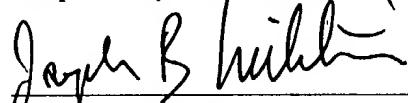
Applicants have amended the Specification to make reference to a currently pending application from which continuation status is claimed. The amendment to the Specification adds no new matter.

Applicants hereby cancel claims 1-51 without prejudice, and add new claims 52-61 to more distinctly claim the subject matter that the Applicants consider to be their invention. Support for the new claims appears throughout the Specification, and at least at pages 42 through 48 and in the Figures. No new material has been added.

CONCLUSION

Applicants request that the Examiner consider the application and the new claims as presently amended at the Examiner's earliest convenience. If, in the Examiner's opinion, a telephonic interview would expedite the favorable prosecution of the present application, the undersigned attorney would welcome the opportunity to discuss any outstanding issues, and to work with the Examiner toward placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph B. Milstein
Attorney for Applicants
Testa, Hurwitz & Thibeault, LLP
High Street Tower
125 High Street
Boston, MA 02110

Date: October 26, 2000
Reg. No. 42,897
Tel. No. (617) 248-7695
Fax No. (617) 248-7100

MILSTEIN\8415\5.1096745_1